**Wildlife Menace**

3207. SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH :
SHRI LALIT ORAON :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received reports of loss of life, property and standing crops due to menace of antelopes (neelgais), wild elephants and other wild animals from various States particularly Uttar Pradesh and Bihar during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check the menace of wild animals and ensure safety of people, animals and crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reports regarding loss of life, property and standing crops due to depradations by wild animals have been received from following States;

Maharashtra (wild bear), Punjab (wild bear), Rajasthan (neelgai), Haryana (wild bear, Neelgai), Uttar Pradesh (neelgai, monkey, deer, leopard, wolf and wild elephant), Madhya Pradesh (neelgai, wild bear, sloth bear and wild elephant), Gujarat (Neelgai), Himachal Pradesh (monkey, leopard), Andhra Pradesh (wild elephant), Assam (wild elephant), Karnataka (wild elephant), Bihar (wild elephant), Arunachal Pradesh (wild elephant), Tamil Nadu (wild elephant) and Meghalaya (wild elephant), Kerala (wild elephant), West Bengal (wild elephant).

(c) The State Governments have been advised to take action regarding the problem of damage to crops by wild animals other than those included in Schedule I of Wild Life (Protection), 1972 under Section 11 (i) (b) of the Act and under Section 11 (i) (a) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act to deal with the problem causing animals to safeguard the lives of the people. For wild elephant steps have been taken to errect electric fencing, elephant proof trenches etc. to stops movement of elephant outside the forests in problematic areas.

*[English]*

**Status of Industry to Agriculture**

3208. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :
KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO :
PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to give industrial status of industry to agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c). The draft Agriculture Policy Resolution envisages bestowing similar benefits on agriculture as exist in Industry. This would include creating positive trade and investment climate for agriculture at par with industry through a continuous review of price structure and trade mechanism. However, care would be taken to ensure that agriculturists are not subjected to the regulatory and tax collection mechinery of the Government. The draft Agriculture Policy is under finalisation keeping in view the suggestions made by Members of Parliament and concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government.

**Gauge Conversion**

3209. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the ongoing survey for guage conversion of the Rewari-Loharu-Sadulpur-Ratangarh-Degana section of the Northern Railway would be completed;

(b) the time by which the said metre gauge section would be converted into broad gauge and opened for the passenger traffic;

(c) whether the Jodhpur Mail presently running on the diverted route had been running on the said section for more than four decades;

(d) if so, whether the Jodhpur Mail would be restored on this section after its conversion into broad gauge; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Traffic survey for gauge conversion of Rewari-Loharu Sadulpur-Ratnagarh-Degana MG line into BG has been sanctioned and will be completed by June, 1997.

(b) Further consideration of the project would be possible once survey reports become available.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). This will be considered on merits at that time.

**Introduction of Special Train**

3210. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been entered with